THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) No, Sir, Decline in VSNL's share price is on account of various market forces and market sentiments and not necessarily because of decision to open the international telephone business to unlimited competitors.

(b) Government has however decided to grant following compensation packages to VSNL in lieu of terminating the monopoly of VSNL on International telephone business.

(i) Licence to run National Long Distance Services, paying back entry fee and licence fee for a period of 5 years.

(ii) Waiver of Performance Bank Guarantee of Rs. 400 crore.

(iii) Grant of Category 'A' ISP licence for providing Internet services at all India level.

Opening of Sub Post Office at Nandla Village

†2608. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any application regarding opening up of a sub Post Office in village Nandla under Shimla district; and

(b) if so, by when a sub post office would be opened in this village?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) Opening of a Sub Post Office at village Nandla under Shimla district is not justified under the existing norms for opening of post offices.

Capacity of Khajurahat Telephone Exchange

2609. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the installed capacity of Khajurahat Telephone Exchange of Faizabad in U.P.;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) how many villages are likely to be connected by telephones from this Exchange during the current year;

(c) the reasons for not providing telephones in village Katari despite the promise to provide the same by March, 2001; and

(d) by when, the waiting list of above village would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) The installed capacity of Khajurahat Telephone Exchange of Faizabad in U.P. is 184 lines.

(b) Ten villages are likely to be connected by telephones from this exchange during the current year.

(c) The telephones in village Katari could not be provided by March, 2001 due to shortage of essential store like underground cable.

(d) The waiting list of the above village will be cleared by 31st March, 2002.

Installation of public telephones

†2610. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some companies had promised to install public telephones in all the villages in their circle in order to get licence;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the said companies have not provided public telephones in the villages so far;

(c) if so, whether Government are going to take any action against them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.